



Ponca State Park

2015 Special Events



May 23 - Sep. 1

Horse Trail Rides

Supervised horseback rides are led seven days a week from Memorial Day through mid- August. From mid-August through Labor Day, the trail rides are weekends only. Must be 6 years of age to ride. No riding double allowed. Fee is \$16 per rider, and you may reserve one day in advance.

June 6- Aug. 3

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is open seven days a week June 7 through August 3. From August 3 to Labor Day the pool is only open on weekends. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children ages 3-12, and free for children 2 years old and younger. Annual passes can be purchased at the park office.

Year-Round

Outdoor Education Programs (weather and staff dependent)

Interactive programs on outdoor skills, environmental education and arts and crafts are offered year-round. Off-season weekend programs are based on staff availability. Programs can be customized for group events. Customized programs need to be scheduled two weeks in advance. Call the park office for details.

January 16-18

1st Annual Women's Wellness Weekend

This new workshop includes presentations and activities on health and wellness, relaxation, meditation, self-improvement, outdoor recreation and more.

**January 31-
February 1**

Superbowl Weekend

Stay in a Ponca State Park Mini Lodge and have a Superbowl get-together. Call the park at 402-755-2284 to find out about the Superbowl Special.

February 14-15

Birds & Breakfast

The focus of this event package is the Great Backyard Bird Count and Valentine's Day. Sited for this event are bird tours/count, a Saturday morning breakfast, complimentary wine or cider, lodging discounts, and other activities.

March Weekends

Marsh Madness

Witness the wonder of spring waterfowl migration along the Missouri River. This annual event features Avian Adventure tours and blind sessions that allow visitors the opportunity to view and learn about waterfowl, eagles, and other early spring migrants.

April 4

Spring Eggstravaganza

Enjoy Easter at the park! Bring your family out for a weekend of fun-filled activities that focus on the season of spring. Kids Easter egg hunt, eggspectacular programs and much more.

May 1-3

Outdoor Cooking Camp Weekend

The 3rd Annual Outdoor Cooking Camp features hands-on instruction and demonstrations on a wide variety of outdoor cooking. Programs are available for both adults and children. Discounts and lodging packages are available to camp participants. Reservations requested.

May 9

International Bird Migration Day

A wonderful opportunity for birdwatchers of all ages to view spring migration.

May 10

Mother's Day Buffet

Treat your mother to a special day among family and friends with a wonderful meal and musical entertainment. Reservations requested

May 16

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission FREE Fishing and Park Entry Day

June 6-7

Scheels 3-D Archery Tournament

The public is invited to compete in a 3-D shoot hosted by Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and sponsored by Scheels. Each round of shooting includes 25 targets. There will be prizes and giveaways. For more information, contact Scheels Archery Shop at 712-252-1551.

June 20

YMCA Dirty Bird Mud Run

Set along the banks of the Missouri River, the Mud Run offers a unique, beautiful and fun course. All proceeds benefit youth sports, summer camp and other youth programs at the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA. More information at www.facebook.com/DirtyBirdMudRun

June 20-21

Bugs and Bones Weekend

Explore the archeology and insects of the region, featuring free hands-on activities such as fossil digs, educational hikes, pond studies, and more.

June 21

Father's Day Fish Fry

Treat dad to a made from scratch fish fry, including Dutch oven cobbler dessert, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Call ahead for menu and to make reservations.

August 22

Lewis and Clark Heritage Day

The Corps of Discovery camped along the Missouri River in this area more than 200 years ago. Celebrate their history with Missouri River canoeing, period games, crafts and more.

September 19-20

11th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo

Celebrate our outdoor heritage with more than 90 hands-on free exhibits, demonstrations, vendors and all-day entertainment. This fun and educational weekend for the whole family includes wildlife viewing, shooting sports, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, camping, hiking, boat tours and much more! Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit: www.missouririverexpo.com

October 10 & 17

17th Annual Halloweenfest

The 16th annual Halloween celebration features haunted evening hayrack rides, pumpkin rolling and carving contests, campsite decorating contest and much more! Hayrack reservations begin October 5th.

December

Date to be announced

Annual Christmas Bird Count

This event coincides with the Audubon Society National Christmas Bird Count. Birdwatchers of all ages are invited to compare notes and sighting reports. Chili feed to follow. This free event.

Saturdays,

Nov. 28 - Dec. 19

Christmas in the Woods

Seasonal educational activities including old-fashion holiday crafts, lighted hayrack ride, free cookies and Wassail, sledding hill, groomed cross-country ski trails (snow permitting), and iceskating. A percent discount lodging package will be offered.

JANUARY 2ND, 2016

4th Annual Winterfest

This outdoor family tradition features the Park's 3K Yule Log Quest, the National Championship Fruitcake Fling, seasonal crafts, lighted hayrack rides and more. Contact Ponca State Park for more details at 402-755-2284.



**"WHERE PEOPLE
AND NATURE MEET"**
Ponca State Park

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See You Out There

OutdoorNebraska.org



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